

MEC News, II, 16, Pre-Anesthesia Clinic Opens

Greetings and welcome to the latest issue of MEC News. At the August 3 meeting of the Medical Executive Committee, Dr. Zena Quezado, Chief, Department of Anesthesia and Surgical Services, announced the opening of the Pre-Anesthesia Clinic (PAC), the result of a hospital-wide initiative to improve outpatient services. The PAC facilitates the outpatient surgery/procedure process by having all outpatients (adults and children) evaluated by an anesthesiologist and a perianesthesia care unit registered nurse prior to the day of the surgery/procedure. The goal is to evaluate and educate Clinical Center patients about the scheduled procedure, and identify and resolve problems, so that delays and cancellations are minimized on the day of surgery.

The Pre-Anesthesia Clinic is located in Bldg. 10, Rm. 2C 527, next to Operating Room Front Desk (2C525). The hours of operation are 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Monday to Friday except holidays. Phone messages may be left at any time. The clinic telephone number is (301) 594-3342. The PAC RN pager number is (301) 285-8666.

The Process

1. Schedule a PAC appointment by calling (301) 594-3342, or by paging the PAC RN (301) 285-8666.
2. The PAC RN will ask for the following information when you call:
 - a. Patient's first and last name
 - b. Patient's medical record number
 - c. Description of the surgery/procedure
 - d. Date and time of the surgery/procedure.
 - e. Type of anesthesia requested during the surgery/procedure
 - f. Name of the person scheduling the appointment and telephone number and/ or pager
 - g. Patient disposition on the day of the surgery/procedure: inpatient, outpatient, morning admission
3. Request the patient's chart from the Medical Record Department.
4. Patients should bring their chart to the PAC appointment for review by the anesthesiologist and PAC RN.
5. The chart will be returned to the Medical Record Department after the appointment, unless otherwise indicated.
6. The anesthesiologist will conduct an evaluation of your patient in preparation for the anesthetic. He or she will instruct your patient to consume nothing by

mouth (NPO) prior to the procedure, advise on the intake of medications and provide any other relevant instructions. If further laboratory and diagnostic procedures are needed, the anesthesiologist will discuss this with the patient's medical or surgical team.

7. The PAC RN will review with the patient pre-operative/pre-procedure instructions, post-operative/post procedure instructions and the criteria for discharge from the Pre/Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU).

If you are interested in a more complete description of Medical Executive Committee actions, please visit the MEC website at:

<<http://intranet.cc.nih.gov/medbrd>>

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P.S.

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2) We welcome your comments. Please feel free to send us feedback and/or suggestions for future newsletters.

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